

1. A method for creating and managing, by a student, an individually customized curriculum of study across a plurality of educational offerings, the method comprising:

selecting, by a student, graduation criteria established by a first course catalog corresponding to a first educational institution;

organizing the graduation criteria into a dependency graph establishing a hierarchy of requirements to satisfy the graduation criteria;

mining, over a network, first catalog information contained in the first course catalog;

selecting course information from the first catalog information to populate the dependency graph with courses satisfying the graduation criteria in accordance with the first course catalog.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising mining, over the network, second catalog information contained in a second course catalog corresponding to a second educational institution;

3. The method of claim 2, further comprising selecting course information from the second catalog information to populate the dependency graph with courses satisfying the graduation criteria in accordance with the first course catalog.

4. The method of claim 3, further comprising coding analogous information in the first and second catalog information with standardized codes to enable comparison of the analogous information.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein coding further comprises coding information in the first and second catalog information with XML tags, and providing the information in the form of XML pages available on the network.
6. The method of claim 4, wherein coding further comprises embedding XML tags into the source code of HTML pages containing the first and second catalog information.
7. The method of claim 4, wherein coding further comprises creating, by a third part independent of the plurality of institutions, XML pages identifying information in the first and second catalog information with XML tags.
8. The method of claim 4, further comprising mining, over the network, information in the first and second catalog information by searching the standardized codes.
9. The method of claim 3, further comprising determining equivalency of courses offered by the first institution and the second institution.
10. The method of claim 1, further comprising selecting, by the student, preferences with respect to courses used to populate the dependency graph.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein preferences are selected from the group consisting of preferred times, preferred days, cost, credit hour load, desired time to graduate, and preferred location to take courses.

12. The method of claim 10, further comprising gathering scheduling information with respect to courses used to populate the dependency graph.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising creating, for the student, a class schedule in accordance with the preferences and the scheduling information.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein selecting graduation criteria further comprises selecting at least one of a department and a college within the institution.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein selecting graduation criteria further comprises selecting a degree program offered by at least one of the department and the college.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein selecting graduation criteria further comprises selecting at least one criteria from the group consisting of degree program requirements, university graduation requirements, prerequisite requirements, general education requirements, departmental requirements, elective requirements, upper division credit requirements, lower division credit requirements, and course mixture requirements.

17. The method of claim 1, further comprising importing existing credits of the student into the dependency graph prior to populating the dependency graph.

18. The method of claim 1, wherein the network is the Internet.

19. The method of claim 1, wherein the network is a virtual network of logical elements stored on a mass storage device.

20. A method for creating and managing, by a student, an individually customized curriculum of study across a plurality of educational offerings, the method comprising:

- selecting, by a student, graduation criteria established by a first course catalog corresponding to a first educational institution;

- organizing the graduation criteria into a dependency graph establishing a hierarchy of requirements to satisfy the graduation criteria;

- coding first catalog information in a the first course catalog, and second catalog information in a second course catalog, corresponding to a second educational institution, with XML tags to create XML pages;

- providing the XML pages on a network.

- mining, over the network, the first catalog information and the second catalog information;

- selecting course information from the first catalog information and the second catalog information to populate the dependency graph with courses satisfying the graduation criteria in accordance with the first course catalog.

21. A method for creating and managing, by a student, an individually customized curriculum of study across a plurality of educational offerings, the method comprising:

- selecting, by a student, graduation criteria established by a first course catalog corresponding to a first educational institution;

- organizing the graduation criteria into a dependency graph establishing a hierarchy of requirements to satisfy the graduation criteria;

- mining, over a network, first catalog information contained in the first course catalog;

- selecting course information from the first catalog information to populate the dependency graph with courses satisfying the graduation criteria in accordance with the first course catalog;

- selecting, by the student, preferences with respect to courses used to populate the dependency graph; and

- creating, for the student, a class schedule in accordance with the preferences.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein preferences are selected from the group consisting of preferred times, preferred days, cost, credit hour load, desired time to graduate, and preferred location to take courses.